percentage of rise in the maintenance expenditure during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) in how many a cases Boeing aircraft had to force landing because of development of certain defects;

(d) whether Government are aware of the increasing air crashes involving Boeing aircraft and growing complaints from the various international airlines about its design, safety and quality ; and

(e) if so, whether in view of the experience gained and the opinion of the international airlines, Government have considered the desirability of its continuance in the AI/IA fleet, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Indian Airlines has 30 Boeing B-737 (includes six on lease) aircraft and Air India has 12 Boeing B-747 aircraft. None of these aircraft have completed their stipulated design life.

(b) The annual expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines and Air India is as follows :—

Year	Annual Expenditure (Rs. in crores)	% increase
Indian Airlines		
1986-87	48.41	11.4
1987-88	57.05	17.8
1988-89 (Prov.)	58.00	1.7
Air India		
1985-86	42.68	2.82
1986-87	55.32	29.61
1987-88	56.85	2.77

(c) There have been no cases of forced lendings of Indian Airlines or Air India Boeing aircraft.

(d) and (e) There is no increase in air crashes involving Indian Airlines and Air India Boeing aircraft in the recent past. Neither Indian Airlines nor Air India has intention to discontinue operations with Boeing aircraft as none of the aircraft in their fleet has exceeded the economic design life.

Visit of Nepalese Foreign Minister to India

1876. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepalese Foreign Minister visited India recently and had discussions with the Government of India ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir; on March 26-27, 1989.

(b) During his Delhi visit in March 1989, the Foreign Minister of Nepal handed over a draft of a Trade Treaty. This draft clearly showed the desire of the Government of Nepal to move away from the preferential trade regime,

towards a modified Most Favoured Nation regime. In the transit field, His Majesty's Government of Nepal sought the continuance of the earlier treaty on this subject. Government of India wish to seek a unified Trade and Transit treaty.

Defects found in the manufacture of Boeing aircraft

1877. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the defects found in the manufacture of Boeing aircraft in a survey conducted in the the U.S.A. ; and

(b) if so, what is the safety check up carried out by the Government on Boeing planes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Federal Aviation Administration issues air-worthiness directives from time to time for removing defects found in Boeing aircraft. Recently Airworthiness Directives calling for visual inspection as well as high frequency eddy current inspection of B-737 aircraft and Airworthiness Directives requiring inspection of engine fire detection/extinguishing system of all Boeing model aircraft manufactured after 31st December, 1980 were issued which were made mandatory by the Indian DGCA. Indian Airlines and Air-India have complied with these directives so far as their Boeing 737 and 747 Combi-aircraft are concerned.

Signing of Mou with Switzerland on criminal matters

1878. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Statesmen on 19-3-89 to the effect that the changed affairs of the Swiss Embassy here has said that India had not yet made any request for help from Switzerland under the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding on mutual assistance on criminal matters ;

(b) whether India propose to find out the names of the actual recipients of the Bofors payments in the Howitzer deal and also the amounts so paid ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which a formal request in this regard has not yet been made under the recently signed MOU with Switzerland ; and

(d) what the steps are proposed to be taken now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A domarcho has already been made by the Government of India in the form of a letter regatory which has been handed over to the Swiss Department of Justice and Police.

Delimitation of maritime zone with Bangladesh and Pakistan

1879. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has proposed